

Covanta Fined for Violating Massachusetts Environmental Consent Order

Covanta Energy violated an environmental consent order less than three weeks after signing it to resolve air pollution violations at the company's incinerator in Pittsfield, Mass., according to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection documents.

The case arose from a September 2008 consent order between Covanta and the state agency, which cited the Pittsfield plant for exceeding its allowable emission rate for dioxins and furans by nearly 350%, based on stack tests conducted in November and December 2007.

The DEP also found Covanta had failed to report other violations of its operating permit during 2008, as required by state air pollution regulations. Covanta settled the violations with a consent order agreeing to comply with its permit and to pay a \$7,653 fine.

The DEP found that three weeks later, however, Covanta had violated the consent order by failing to properly operate its air quality control system for one of the boilers at the Pittsfield incinerator over a 16-hour period in October 2008.

In November 2008, the DEP ordered Covanta to pay a stipulated penalty of \$1,000 for the new violations, as provided in the consent order.

The World Health Organization classifies dioxin as a known human carcinogen. Long-term exposure has been linked to impairment of the immune system, the developing nervous system, the endocrine system, and reproductive functions.



For more information concerning these events, please contact Covanta at 973/882-7277 (phone) or 973/882-7276 (fax).

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